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Letter dated 27 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter which the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you on 14 March 2000 (S/2000/217), in which he claimed that a number of Iraqi fishing launches had been intercepted in Iraqi territorial waters, I have the honour to inform you that the assertions contained in that letter are part of the series of unfounded allegations and untruths that are typical of Iraq. The truth is that during a routine operation of surveillance and protection of Kuwait's territorial waters on its northern maritime boundary, one of our patrols noticed that vessels flying the Iraqi flag were engaged in fishing inside the territorial waters of Kuwait and, without recourse to any act of intimidation or violence against the fishermen, ordered them to leave the area. Moreover, contrary to the claim made by the representative of Iraq, neither the documents of the vessels in question nor the identity papers of their crew members were confiscated.

The competent authorities of Kuwait categorically deny these false allegations which seek to give a misleading impression of the situation and come under the usual policy of Iraq which is aimed at creating tensions and provoking crises in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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